PATENT
Response Under 37 C.F.R. 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 2611
Attorney's Docket No.: VALENZ-98-275
Page 4 of 32

<u>**Amendments to the Claims**</u>:

In response to the Official Action and in accordance with 37 CFR 1.121(c), please enter

the following rewritten claims.

Claims Showing Proposed Amendments

Claims 1-16 (canceled previously).

17.　　*(Currently amended)* A remote unitary module for controlling access to a plurality of

video channels that are distributed over a communications conduit,

wherein the communications conduit has a head-end and at least one remote-end,

said remote unitary module being positioned along a remote-end of the

communications conduit,

said remote unitary module being provided with a changeable list of

permitted video channel numbers, said changeable list containing at least

one permitted video channel number therein, and,

wherein is provided a <u>standard</u> video signal transmitted over said communications

conduit, said <u>standard</u> video signal containing at least one scan line wherein at least a

portion of said changeable list of permitted video channels has been embedded therein,

said remote unitary module, comprising:

(a)　　a first tuner in electronic communication with said communications conduit, said

first tuner receiving a particular video channel as input and providing a baseband

PATENT
Response Under 37 C.F.R. 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 2611
Attorney's Docket No.: VALENZ-98-275
Page 5 of 32

video signal as output, said particular video channel being associated with a

particular video channel number;

(b)   means for changing said first tuner to receive a different video channel, said

different video channel having a different video channel number;

(c)   a CPU in electronic communications with said first tuner, said CPU programmed

to at least perform the steps of,

    (c1)   extracting from said at least one transmitted scan line at least a portion of

said embedded portion of said changeable list of permitted video channels,

    (c2)   sensing said different video channel number and determining whether said

different video channel number is in said extracted changeable list of

permitted video channel numbers, and,

    (c3)   prohibiting display of said different video channel if said different video

channel is not in said extracted changeable list of permitted video channel

numbers;

(d)   computer RAM in electronic communication with said CPU, said RAM

containing

at least one digital image stored therein; and,

(e)   a video switch having at least a first video input, a second video input, and a video

output,

wherein

PATENT
Response Under 37 C.F.R. 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 2611
Attorney's Docket No.: VALENZ-98-275
Page 6 of 32

(e1)   said first video input receives said baseband video signal from said first

tuner,

(e2)   said second video input receives a baseband video representation of said

digital image stored in said computer RAM, and,

(e3)   said video output is switchable under control of said CPU between said

baseband video signal from said first tuner and said baseband video

representation of said digital image.

Claims 18-21 (Canceled).

22.   *(Previously presented)* A method of controlling access to a plurality of video channels

that are distributed over a communications conduit, each of said video channels being

associated with a video channel number, wherein is provided the remote unitary module

of Claim 17, and,

wherein the communications conduit has a head-end and at least one remote-end,

wherein there is provided a plurality of said remote unitary modules positioned

along a remote-end of said communications conduit, and,

wherein each of said plurality of remote unitary modules has a changeable

list of permitted video channel numbers associated therewith,

comprising the steps of:

PATENT
Response Under 37 C.F.R. 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 2611
Attorney's Docket No.: VALENZ-98-275
Page 7 of 32

(a)   assigning an individual security key code to each of said plurality of remote

        unitary modules;

(b)   identifying at least one of said plurality of remote unitary module that is to receive

        a changed list of permitted video channel numbers and identifying an individual

        security key code assigned to each of said identified remote unitary modules;

(c)   obtaining a standard video image from a digital or an analog source, said video

        image having a plurality of scan lines contained therein;

(d)   obtaining a predetermined scan line of said video image;

(e)   for each identified remote unitary module, impressing a value representative of its

        assigned identified individual security key code into said predetermined scan line,

        thereby creating a modified video image;

(f)   impressing values representative of said changed list of permitted video channel

        numbers into a second predetermined scan line, thereby creating a further

        modified video image;

(g)   broadcasting said further modified video image over said communications

        conduit;

(h)   receiving said broadcast video image within at least one of said at least one

        remote unitary modules;

(i)   within at least one of said at least one remote unitary modules wherein said

        broadcast video image is received,

PATENT
Response Under 37 C.F.R. 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 2611
Attorney's Docket No.: VALENZ-98-275
Page 8 of 32

(i1)   determining a local security key code for said remote unitary module wherein said broadcast video image is received,

(i2)   identifying said predetermined scan line,

(i3)   extracting from said predetermined scan line any values representative of said assigned individual security keys impressed therein,

(i4)   determining from any values extracted from said predetermined scan line at least one transmitted individual security key,

(i5)   comparing each of said at least one transmitted security keys with said local individual security key,

(i6)   if said local individual security key is equal to any one of said at least one transmitted keys, storing within said selected remote unitary module a numerical representation of said changed list of permitted video channel numbers, and,

(i7)   performing steps (i1) through (i6) for at least one selected remote unitary module;

(j)   monitoring said first tuner to detect whether the user has selected a different video channel number;

(k)   determining whether said selected different video channel number is among said changed list of permitted video channel numbers;

PATENT
Response Under 37 C.F.R. 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 2611
Attorney's Docket No.: VALENZ-98-275
Page 9 of 32

(l)   if said different video channel number is not among said changed list of permitted

        video channel numbers, displaying to the user an alternative video image for said

        different video channel; and,

(m)   if said different channel number is among said changed list of permitted video

        channel numbers, displaying to the user said different video channel.

(~~l~~n)   if said different video channel number is not among said changed list of permitted

        video channel numbers, displaying to the user an alternative video image for said

        different video channel; and,

(~~m~~o)   if said different channel number is among said changed list of permitted video

        channel numbers, displaying to the user said different video channel.

Claims 23-27 (Canceled)

28.   *(Previously presented)* A method of controlling access to a plurality of video channels

        that are distributed over a communications conduit according to Claim **22**, wherein said

        predetermined scan line is a first scan line of said video image.

29.   *(Previously presented)* A method of controlling access to a plurality of video channels

        that are distributed over a communications conduit according to Claim **22**, wherein said

        predetermined scan line is a non-visible scan line of said video image.

PATENT
Response Under 37 C.F.R. 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 2611
Attorney's Docket No.: VALENZ-98-275
Page 10 of 32

30.   (*Currently amended*) A remote unitary module for controlling access by a user to a

plurality of video channels that are distributed over a communications conduit,

        wherein said remote unitary module is provided with a changeable list of

        permitted video channel numbers, each of said permitted channel numbers being

        associated with one of said plurality of video channels,

        wherein is provided a <u>standard</u> video signal transmitted over said communications

        conduit, said video signal containing at least one scan line wherein at least a

        portion of a revised list of permitted video channels is embedded,

        wherein said video signal contains at least one scan line wherein a security key is

        embedded, and,

        wherein said remote unitary module has a module security key associated

        therewith,

said remote unitary module, comprising:

(a)   a first video tuner in electronic communication with said communications conduit,

        said first tuner being configurable to accept at least two of said plurality of video

        channels as input, wherein,

        (a1)   said first video tuner is switchable to receive a selected one of said at least

                two video channels, said selected video channel having a corresponding

                selected video channel number,

        (a2)   said first video tuner transmits a first tuner video signal as output, said first

                tuner video signal being representative of said selected video channel;

PATENT
Response Under 37 C.F.R. 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 2611
Attorney's Docket No.: VALENZ-98-275
Page 11 of 32

(b)   a CPU in electronic communication with said first video tuner, said CPU being

programmed to perform at least the steps of:

(b1)   examining said video signal to determine said transmitted security key,

(b2)   examining said video signal to determine said revised list of permitted

video channels,

(b3)   comparing said transmitted security key with said module security key,

(b4)   if said transmitted security does not match said module security key,

responding according to said selected video channel to determine whether

said selected video channel number is in said provided changeable list of

permitted video channel numbers, and,

(b5)   if said transmitted security does match said module security key,

(1)   responding according to said selected video channel to determine

whether said selected video channel number is in said revised list

of permitted video channel numbers, and,

(2)   storing said revised list of permitted video channel numbers in

place of said provided permitted video channel numbers;

(c)   computer RAM in electronic communication with said CPU, said RAM

containing at least one digital image stored therein;

(d)   a video controller in electronic communication with said CPU and said RAM, said

video controller having a video controller output for transmitting a controller

PATENT
Response Under 37 C.F.R. 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 2611
Attorney's Docket No.: VALENZ-98-275
Page 12 of 32

video signal representative of at least one of said at least one digital images stored

in said RAM;

(e)   a video switch having at least a first video switch input, a second switch video

input, and a video switch output,

wherein

(e1)   said first video switch input receives said first tuner video signal from said

first video tuner,

(e2)   said second video switch input receives said controller video signal from

said video controller output,

(e3)   said video switch output is switchable under control of said CPU between

said first tuner video signal and said controller video signal, depending on

whether said selected video channel is a permitted video channel.

31.   *(Previously presented)* A remote unitary module for controlling access by a user to a

plurality of video channels according to Claim **30**, wherein said first video tuner is

switchable by the user to receive a selected one of said at least two video channels.

32.   *(Previously presented)* A remote unitary module for controlling access by a user to a

plurality of video channels according to Claim **30**, wherein said computer RAM contains

a plurality of digital images stored therein, and wherein said video controller successively

displays selected ones of said plurality of digital images under control of said CPU.

PATENT
Response Under 37 C.F.R. 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 2611
Attorney's Docket No.: VALENZ-98-275
Page 13 of 32

33. *(Previously presented)* A remote unitary module for controlling access by a user to a

plurality of video channels according to Claim **30**, wherein said first tuner video signal is

a baseband signal and said controller video signal is a baseband signal.

34. *(Previously presented)* A remote unitary module for controlling access by a user to a

plurality of video channels according to Claim **30**, wherein said controller video signal is

generated at a same frequency as said output from said first video tuner.

35. *(Previously presented)* A remote unitary module for controlling access by a user to a

plurality of video channels according to Claim **30**, further comprising:

(f)   a video display device positionable to be in electronic communication with said

video switch output, said video display device for displaying in visually

perceptible form a video signal from said output of said video switch.

36. *(Previously presented)* A remote unitary module for controlling access by a user to a

plurality of video channels according to Claim **30**, further comprising:

(f)   a video modulator in electronic communication with said video switch output,

said video modulator modulating a video signal from said output of said video

switch to a predetermined video channel.

PATENT
Response Under 37 C.F.R. 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 2611
Attorney's Docket No.: VALENZ-98-275
Page 14 of 32

37.   (*Currently amended*) A method of controlling access to a plurality of video channels that

are broadcast over a communications conduit, each of said video channels being

associated with a video channel number, and wherein is provided at least one remote

unitary module as in Claim **30** which is in electronic communication with said

communications conduit and with said plurality of video channels, each of said at least

one remote unitary modules having a security code associated therewith, comprising the

steps of:

(a)   identifying at least one of said at least one remote unitary module that is to receive

        a revised list of permitted video channel numbers;

(b)   identifying a particular security key code assigned to each of said identified

        remote unitary modules;

(c)   obtaining a video image from a digital or an analog source, said video image

        having a plurality of scan lines contained therein;

(d)   selecting a first scan line of said video image;

(e)   storing a value representative of each of said identified particular security key

        codes into said first scan line, thereby creating a modified video image;

(f)   selecting a second scan line of said video image;

(g)   storing values representative of said revised list of permitted video channel

        numbers into said second predetermined scan line, thereby creating a further

        modified video image;

PATENT
Response Under 37 C.F.R. 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 2611
Attorney's Docket No.: VALENZ-98-275
Page 15 of 32

(h)   broadcasting said further modified video image <u>as a standard video signal</u> over

said communications conduit;

(i)   receiving said broadcast video image within a particular remote unitary module,

said particular remote unitary module having a particular security key associated

therewith;

(j)   within said particular remote unitary module,

(j1)   extracting from said first scan line at least one of said values representative

of said assigned individual security keys stored therein,

(j2)   determining from any of said extracted values representative of said

assigned individual security keys at least one of said identified security

keys,

(j3)   comparing any of said determined identified security keys with said

particular security key of said particular remote unitary module,

(j4)   if said particular security key matches any of said determined identified

security keys, storing within said particular remote unitary module a

numerical representation of said revised list of permitted video channel

numbers,

(j5)   monitoring said first tuner within said particular remote unitary module to

detect when the user has selected a video channel number,

(j6)   determining whether said selected video channel number is among said

revised list of permitted video channel numbers,

PATENT
Response Under 37 C.F.R. 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 2611
Attorney's Docket No.: VALENZ-98-275
Page 16 of 32

(j7)   if said selected video channel number is among said revised list of

permitted video channel numbers, displaying to the user said selected

video channel, and,

(j8)   if said selected video channel number is not among said revised list of

permitted video channel numbers, displaying to the user an alternative

video image.

38.   *(Previously presented)* A method according to Claim **37**, wherein said first scan line and

said second scan line are a same scan line.

39.   *(Previously presented)* A method according to Claim **37**, wherein said first scan line and

said second scan line are both non-visible scan lines.